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April 8, 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Central Intelligence

Reference: Memo for Assistant Director for Special Operations,
dated 24 March 1948

1. For communication planning purposes, the Office of Special Operations has proceeded on the following bases:

a. To provide secure means of communications for intelligence reports throughout the world during normal peacetime.

b. To provide continuous and secure means of communications for intelligence reports in areas of local political trouble or where normal facilities are inadequate.

c. To train and recommend location of radio operators to stay behind in case of invasion.

d. To establish and maintain communications bases for the control of agent, stay-behind or clandestine radio operators.

e. To provide, in the event of war, continuous and secure means of communications for intelligence reports throughout the world and from the scene of action for the period immediately following the outbreak of hostilities (a matter of weeks and perhaps months). This is to be expanded during the war to long-term strategic intelligence and tactical intelligence in the immediate support of combat units.

2. The basic responsibilities outlined above are met by utilizing existing facilities where such facilities are adequate or approach satisfactory service, by supplementing existing facilities in some cases where such action can be taken, and by providing facilities when non-existent. The practice of not duplicating existing facilities, except when definitely required to afford security for emergency usage, dictates the extent to which CIA installations are made.

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3. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] has established continuous and secure facilities throughout the world, either by using existing facilities or by supplementing them where necessary. The supplementary stations established to date have been located in an attempt to carry out the basic assumptions. It must be recognized that the job of establishing normal peacetime facilities has had first priority and that wartime aspects of our responsibilities have not been fully met.

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4. The problem of having communications bases available to support [REDACTED]

under them. The problem is not completely solved by these stations, and it is believed that at least one more station should be added to the networks.

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~~SECRET~~24 March 1948⁸

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director for Special Operations

I seem to remember that one of the difficulties in controlling underground and subversive groups in the early stages of the European war was due to the fact that the base communications centers were not located and on the beam with the radio sets in the hands of underground units.

It seems to me we should investigate this condition at once with the view to possibly locating a base radio communication

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If I am correct in these assumptions it is suggested that the matter be discussed with the proper [] officials and the project initiated as early as possible in order that we may utilize funds now available.

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I would like to have your comment or report on this matter as soon as anything can be reported.

R. H. MILLENBORTER
Rear Admiral, USN
Director of Central Intelligence

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